

FOES FUMING OVER INCINERATOR PLAN

SEE PAGE 2



THE BROOKLYN
SPECTATOR

50¢

BROOKLYN'S "LEADER IN CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING"

Vol. 73, No. 15

April 10, 2002

Office: 8723 Third Ave.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11209

If Terrorists Strike

ARMY TEACHES US HOW TO FIGHT BACK



Army Sgt. Mark Epstein shows the latest technology to fight terrorists during a special training course at the Fort Hamilton Army Base. The course was held to teach local cops, firefighters, doctors, and emergency workers how to handle a chemical or biological attack should it happen here. Coverage begins page 3.

Army Anti-Terror Course

Next Time, Be Prepared!

AROLD EGELN, JR.
PAULA KATINAS

a scene that could have come out of a science fiction movie, but was all real, the U.S. Army held a training exercise to prepare for the possibility of chemical, biological, or nuclear attack in the community by terrorists. The Fort Hamilton Army Base in Brooklyn was the site of the two-day training course run by the military's 1st Care Recruitment Program.

STOCK FULL of information on what to do if terrorists unleash poisons, chemicals or deadly viruses here in Brooklyn, the training sessions, held on Thursday and Friday, included lectures as well as hands-on action.

The students included cops from the 1st and 62nd Precincts, firefighters from local fire companies, as well as agency teams from Victory Memorial Hospital, Lutheran Medical Center, Maimonides Medical Center, and Veterans Administration Medical Center.

At one point, a mock decontamination center, complete with mannequins, was set up on the grounds of the army base.

The idea of the training program was to teach cops, firefighters, doctors, and emergency workers, the people likely to be the first to respond to a disaster, how to handle a catastrophe, said Major Angela Woods, the commanding officer of the Health Care Recruitment Program.

The military has been studying how to combat nuclear, chemical, or biological warfare for decades, but the attacks of September 11 gave the training program at Fort Hamilton a new sense of urgency.

The idea of terrorists waging chemical warfare on the U.S. doesn't seem

so far fetched, said experts.

No one thought September 11 would happen, and it did, said experts.

ONE OF THE SPEAKERS, Lieutenant Colonel Walter Loring, offered detailed information on how to decontaminate patients once they have been exposed to deadly chemicals.

The first step is to set up a secure area away from the decontamination site and get rid of any clothing the infected victims may have been wearing, said Loring.

Emergency workers would then have to set up a triage system to determine which patients were in danger of dying and which would be likely to survive.

The people closest to the point where the chemical was released stand the greatest chance of being contaminated, noted Loring.

Symptoms range from wheezing and coughing, in the cases of mild exposure, to severely pinpointed pupils, vomiting, and loss of bladder control in the cases of severe exposure.

As for the decontamination itself, "water is the best way to wash away chemicals," said Loring.

Loring suggested that fire trucks could be brought to the scene of the disaster and that firefighters could use fire hoses to douse victims with water.

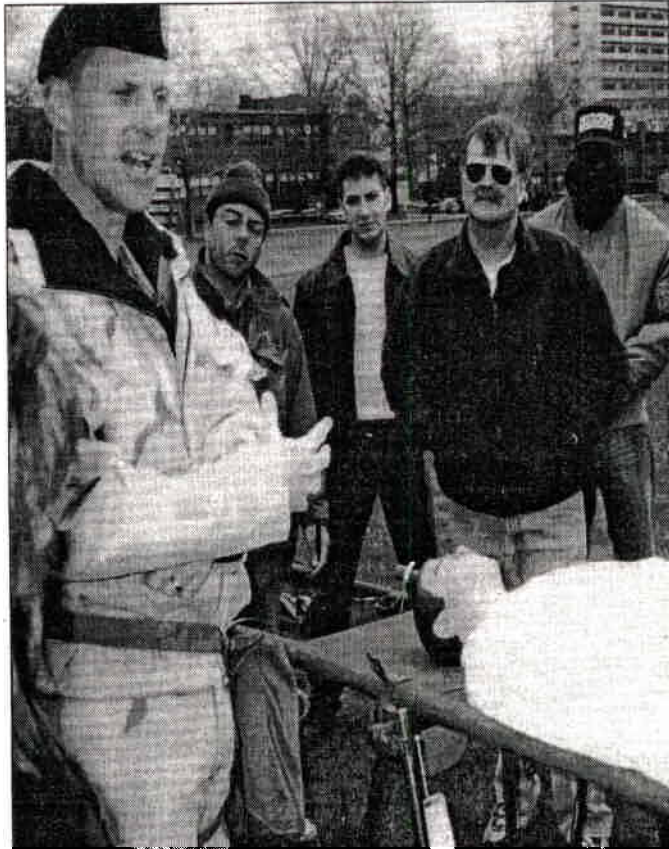
EXPERTS ALSO discussed the various types of chemicals, viruses, and other agents out there.

Anthrax was one of the biological agents the health experts discussed.

Anthrax is a buzzword for terror in this country ever since the attacks that took place in the fall in the wake of the September 11 disaster.

Six people died and several others

Continued on Page 5



Major Joseph Gresenz describes patient decontamination procedures to law enforcement and hospital officials, with "victim" on gurney.



Among those here are Larry Morrish; Kathy Gaine, Veterans Administration Hospital Compliance Office; Don Clark; Mary Ann Hegazzi-Riedl, staff assistant Veterans Administration Hospital; and 68th Pct. Detective Joseph Nolasco. Behind them are the Veterans Memorial Hospital and an NYPD Emergency Response van.



Or Angela Woods and General Robert Gaylord, commander of recruiting, with other presenters, Lieut. Col. Walter Loring, Sergeant First Class Mark Epstein, Lt. Col. Piper and Major Stephen Cima.

INDEX

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Calendar | Pg 7 |
| Classified | Pg 44 |
| Common Sense | Pg 21 |
| Editorial | Pg 20 |
| Health | Pg 33 |
| Media | Pg 26 |
| Obituaries | Pg 38 |
| Restaurants | Pg 41 |
| Sports | Pg 24 |

THE BROOKLYN SPECTATOR

Established 1933
8723 Third Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11209
238-6600

A Newspaper Issued Every Tuesday.
Periodical Postage Paid At
Brooklyn, NY
(USPS 067100)

Postmaster: Send Address Changes To: The Brooklyn Spectator, 8723-3rd Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11209. Periodical postage paid at Brooklyn, NY. Subscription rate: \$35.00 per year, \$40.00 a year out of town.

Anti-Terror Course

Army Shows How To Prepare

Continued from Page 3

were infected when anthrax was placed in letters.

Smallpox was mentioned, as was the possibility of terrorists unleashing a plague here.

The discussion also focused on nuclear attacks.

As in the case of a chemical attack, a nuclear attack would have the most severe effect on those closest to the site where the bomb was dropped, said experts.

But there would be long term effects of a nuclear disaster, according to experts, who said victims would likely develop cancer years down the road.

LISTENING WITH rapt attention were more than 100 cops, firefighters, doctors, and emergency medical technicians who came to take part in the

two-day training course at the army base.

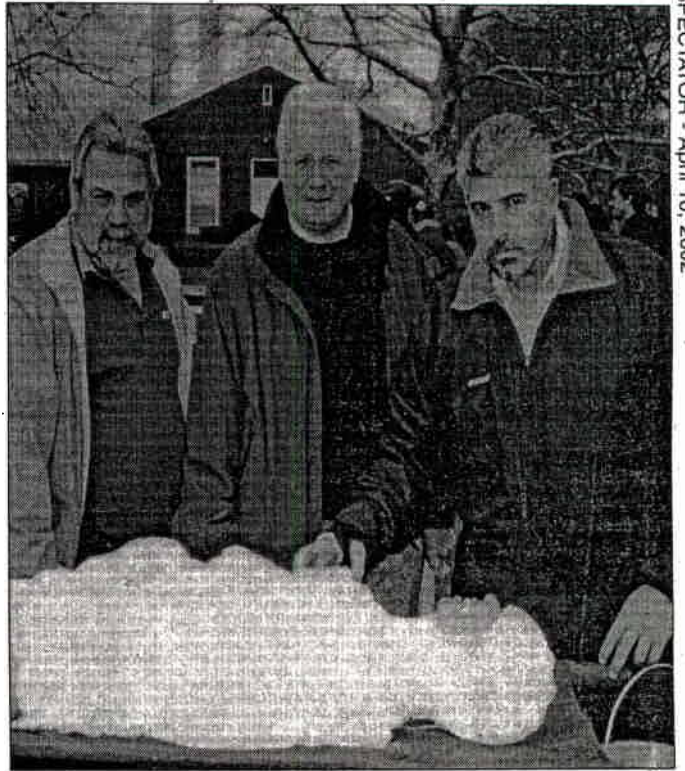
General Robert Gaylord, the man in charge of recruiting for the U.S. Army, noted that many of the people at the training course had first-hand experience with disaster because they were the first responders on September 11.

"Many of you have worked and helped at Ground Zero," said Gaylord.

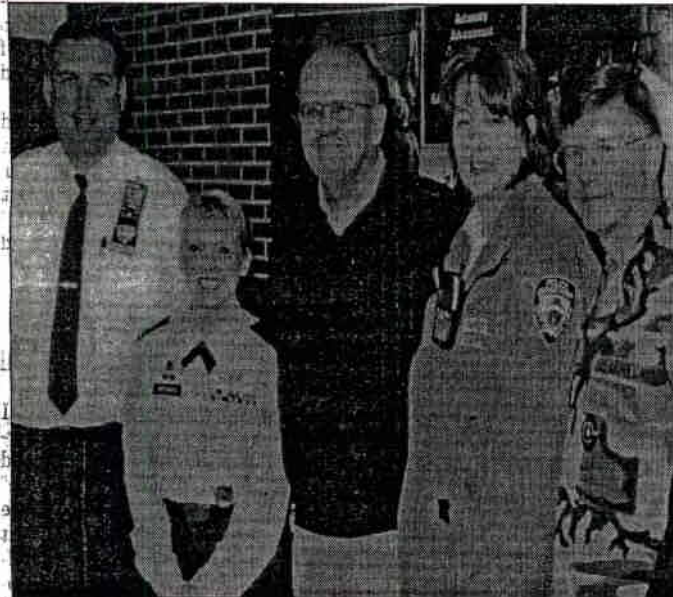
The emergency personnel were joined at Fort Hamilton by a group of local civic and business leaders who signed up when the course was opened up to include outsiders.

While the information imparted was scary and often grim, the course was necessary, according to Woods.

"We hope that what we teach will never have to be put into practice. But it is best to be prepared. Our goal is to save lives," said Woods.



Chip Cafiero, left, Councilman Marty Golden, center, and Charles Pomaro, who are heading up a local disaster response team, examine a mannequin dressed in a decontamination suit.



Captain Donald Conceicao, 62nd Pct. commander; Major Angela Woods; civic leader Larry Morrish; 62nd Pct. Community Affairs Officer Mary Amato; and Army Lieut. Colonel Walter Loring.